

Unionists to Attack Workplace Hazards

by Tony Dominski
Modern Times Staff

The AFL-CIO Central Labor Council brought together trade union leaders, rank and file workers and health personnel for a conference on job health and safety February 26. The conference took place just one week after a similar conference of the Medical Committee for Human Rights (MCHR) on the same subject and was designed to stimulate interest within local unions. (See related story on page 5 for MCHR conference.)

Over 100 people attended. They included rubber workers, electrical workers, boilermakers, teamsters, university employees, restaurant workers, steelworkers, printers, telephone workers, and chemical workers. They shared

their on-the-job problems, horror stories of unsafe conditions, and talked about how to deal with management.

Dr. Donald Whorton, of MCHR, gave a brief lecture on the reaction of the skin and the lung to asbestos, cotton, dust, lead, silica and carbon monoxide—substances which the Department of Labor designated as the most widespread and most serious industrial hazards. However, Dr. Whorton pointed out that an equally widespread hazard, noise pollution, was not included.

Feds Dragging Feet

Steven Wodka from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International documented how the Department of Labor, which is responsible for enforcement of the federal Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act, was dragging its feet. For 4.1 million workplaces places having 57 million workers there are only 350 inspectors. This means that at the present rate all the work-

places would be inspected in 170 years. The average fine to industry is very low, averaging only \$62 per violation so far.

Harold Smith, the regional director of the Department of Labor's occupational health department insisted that he had a "clear conscience" in his enforcement of the job health law. However, he admitted that the law is "no

guarantee" of a safe workplace nor of the time it would take to get a complaint serviced. Smith said that he would not take responsibility for the way the law is enforced in other districts, strongly implying that the enforcement of the law may vary from place to place.

Mr. Smith aroused considerable controversy among the participants when he denied labor had the right to name a representative to go on the safety inspections. He said that the right to choose a representative "was his alone", although he implied that his choice would not be unreasonable and arbitrary.

It became clear that there was no guarantee in the law that the worker has a right to know if working conditions are up to legal standards. In other areas of the country the technical information (in parts per million of chemicals, decibels of noise, etc.) was eliminated from the citation that the employer was required to post in the workplace. In addition the employer was required to give the log of accidents and medical treatment to the government, but the same information is not made available to the employee. Under these conditions, how can the workers monitor their own health and working conditions and become more active participants in the enforcement of safety standards?

Mike Charney, a medical student who helped plan the conference, suggested that the Community Health Plan set up by the Central Labor Council could have an important role in providing occupational health data and thus protecting workers' rights and health. One important task of a center would be to monitor workers' hearing. If a baseline hearing level could be determined

See JOB SAFETY, Page 5



Over 100 people participated in the Job Safety Conference at Harkness Hall, Saturday, February 26. (M-T photo by Paul Gill.)

A Look at the Lottery

Two members of the Modern Times staff interviewed some people in New Haven on Thursday morning, Feb. 24. People were asked what they thought of the new state lottery. Here are their responses.

People in the Street interviews
by Patti Miller & Ruth Resnick

"It's a good thing. There aren't very good odds. People shouldn't be fooled. It's a fair way to make money for the state. It's not regressive like sales tax. It's voluntary, too."
—Charles Eldridge

"I like to shoot dice to tell you the truth."
—Anonymous

"I like it. I think it's nice. I don't think I'll win, but it's a good way to raise money."
—Noreen MacLennan

"If I could win I'd love it."
—Jacquelin Melentez

"I think it's terrible. Housewives are going to be buying lottery tickets in grocery stores instead of food."
—Mrs. Silby

"Oh I think it's fine. I've got tickets. If you want to bet your money on anything like horses, bingo, anything—that's your privilege. You should be able to do what you please with the money you earn."
—Madelin Pomichter

"Actually, I like it. I used to play it in New York. Once I won \$500! We throw money away anyway, so if it helps with taxes that's good."
—Anonymous

"My impression of it is that it's something people love. It's an easy way to make money for the state."
—Anonymous

Cont. on page 6

Northern Ireland In Revolt

SEE PAGE 7

Welfare Cut Hurts Staff & Recipients

by Jim Gaito

Executive Vice President Conn. Union of Welfare Employees

After attacking welfare recipients, State Welfare Commissioner White has turned his guns on us caseworkers. He has cut our staff from 2300 a year ago to 1800 workers at the present time. And in order to get around the staff deficiency, White has announced that he will hire welfare recipients.

White's plan may seem viable and desirable, but in reality it's a cruel hoax for the welfare mothers who are being recruited. Welfare mothers will be hired into aide positions where they will doubtlessly remain. White and his boss Meskill will thereby accomplish their aim of lowering administrative costs through the use of cheaper labor. Ultimately, when social services are diluted to nothing, the agency will be comprised of wealthy political appointees in administrative positions and a mass of poorly trained, poorly paid welfare mothers as workers.

Our union is fighting for our members' livelihoods and a decent professional program. Through expanded services we think there is room for everyone and a lot more people at that. We will not allow community people to be stuck in dead-end jobs. And at the same time, professional and other workers have a right to their jobs.

Welfare Commissioner White's simplistic notions about poverty and his disdain for caseworkers has been shown time and time again in the press. Through a departmental reorganization called separation, he has assigned the vast majority of caseworkers to unsatisfying counter-productive jobs in an effort to get rid of us. Our fears of imminent transfers, demotions, layoffs, and firings are all too real.

White's maneuvers against caseworkers may not be as dire as his proposal for starvation budgets to welfare recipients, but it nonetheless must be strenuously resisted.

Davis -Berrigan

Long months of organized activity produced results recently as Angela Davis and Father Daniel Berrigan were



Father Daniel Berrigan released from prison only hours apart. Each of them received not only national support in the United States but help from around the world.

Both had been the objects of massive police hunts before they were caught. Berrigan was convicted of burning draft records in Catonsville, Md. in 1968, and has served 18 months in prison. He is now out on parole for another 18 months. Davis has been in jail for 16 months, and yet has been convicted of no

crime. Her trial in San Jose, Calif. has begun under the most severe security precautions.

Even though Berrigan and Davis have been limited in what they can say and where they can go, both have vowed to continue their struggles against an oppressive society.

The government has used the catch-all charge of conspiracy to silence these two. In rebuttal Berrigan has accused the government of conspiring to silence peace movement leaders.

As with Bobby Seale, Huey Newton and Jimmy Hoffa, efforts by progressive people everywhere resulted in the release of Angela Davis and Father Berrigan.



Angela Davis

"Enough" Protests Alderman Stall

by Renee Poirier
Modern Times Staff

"It's a stab in the back of the Fair Haven Community!" This was the reaction of Ellen Quinn of Project Enough, when the group learn-

Aldermen Rescind Support

The five Aldermen, who presented the resolution rescinding their support, stated the following reasons: (1) Fair Haven Aldermen were not represented on the Project Enough Advisory Board (2) The Lloyd Street School would not



Project Enough has been seeking the Lloyd Street School for its new headquarters for more than a year.

ed that five of the six Fair Haven aldermen were withdrawing their support of the group's leasing the Lloyd Street School.

Project Enough, a community based drug prevention and education program and referral service, was to have signed the lease on February 14. For a year now the group has been negotiating with the city for the use of the building and has met every stipulation put to them.

In December, 1970, the Board of Aldermen voted unanimously in favor of Project Enough getting the lease of the Lloyd Street School. Now the matter must go back to a committee of the Board, a public hearing must be held, and the Aldermen must vote once more. In other words, Project Enough must start its campaign for the use of the school all over again.

be opened to the community (3) The program would be an added financial burden to the city at this time (4) Project Enough had lost community support.

In response to these points, Quinn stated that Project Enough had held a meeting with four of the Aldermen in January to iron out differences and to invite them to be on their Advisory Board. Alderman Raymond O'Neill sought a position on the Board of Directors, but Project Enough refused, and the Aldermen agreed to be on the Advisory Board on a rotating basis. In fact, two Aldermen attended an Advisory Board meeting in January and one Alderman, Alan DeLisle, is still an active Board member.

Only Group in Fair Haven

As to the charge that Project Enough had lost community support, Quinn went on to say, "Up to this time, we were the

Welfare Plan Hits Workers

Reprinted from Concerned Hospital Workers Newsletter

President Nixon — no friend of the working man — is no friend of the unemployed either. And he has a plan to help employers at the expense of both.

This plan is badly named "The Family Assistance Plan" and is now before Congress. In it Nixon proposes that people on Welfare be required to work full-time at hospitals and other public service jobs for \$30 a month. Otherwise they could be cut off their regular welfare benefit, which would be only \$200 a month (average for a family of four).

These welfare recipients would be forced to work for next to nothing, and it wouldn't cost our employer, Yale-New Haven Hospital a dime.

Would Yale-New Haven Hospital continue to pay us what they do if they could get free labor instead? Think about it. The Concerned Hospital Workers are sending a telegram to Senator Ribicoff urging him to oppose Nixon's Family Assistance Plan, especially the part in it about forced work.

We urge other workers to write or wire Senator Ribicoff too. His address is:

Senator Abraham Ribicoff
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

only group of our kind in Fair Haven and have gained the support of the Mayor, the Mayor's Drug Task Force, the Italian-American Civil Rights League, the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation (which represents 20 community groups), the Drug Dependency Institute, and the Drug Dependency Unit and the young people of Fair Haven."

"We have met all the requirements that the city has put to us and have cooperated with the Aldermen as fully as possible, short of allowing them total political control.

"Project Enough is going to continue working with the young people of Fair Haven and continue fighting the drug addiction problem, despite Alderman O'Neill's attempts at destroying our efforts."

"Project Enough is a youth self-help program and has given more than its share of concessions to the political forces of the city. It is now obvious to us that it's not concessions they're looking for, but complete control over youth programs."

New Welfare Bills Aim For Reform

Modern Times Staff

Several bills are pending action by the State Legislature which would reform the welfare law and attempt to provide protection for recipients. If the bills pass, welfare workers will be permitted to visit clients only at reasonable hours instead of any hour, financial eligibility would be expanded and the State would be required to assume the full cost of city welfare.

Other welfare bills in the hopper deal with the problems of poor youth. These include:

No. 28 Establishment of community non-resident multi-service centers for children and youth in areas with high rates of juvenile delinquency.

No. 5062 To establish half-way houses for children and youth, residential community centers for whom juvenile institutions are considered unsuitable.

No. 5058 Defining a "child" for purposes of temporary public assistance as under the age of 21 and full time attendance in school.

To Aid Adoption

Some bills would aid foster parents, including one bill which would subsidize parents previously unable to adopt because of financial considerations.

In terms of finances, current bills include:

No. 5056 To provide 100% reimbursement to towns for public assistance expenditures after July 1 (current rate is 75%).

A bill requiring the State to provide public assistance at a level which is not below the standard of need as determined by the State Welfare Department.

The United Way has initiated a campaign urging members of community agencies to support these bills and to write to legislators, urging them to do likewise.

Labor Notes

CONTRACTS DUE IN '72

According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, contracts in the aerospace industry, expiring in 1972, will affect over 40,000 workers in Connecticut. About 15,000 of these workers are employed by the United Aircraft Corporation at plants in Stratford (Sikorsky), North Haven (Pratt & Whitney), and Windsor (Hamilton Standard). The 3500 workers at Sikorsky, represented by the Teamsters, just ratified a new three year contract which calls for a 14% wage boost over the length of the agreement. The contract at Hamilton Standard for over 4000 workers expires on March 23 and the North Haven Pratt & Whitney contract for another 4000 workers runs out on May 15. Hamilton Standard workers are represented by the International Association of Machinists and Pratt & Whitney workers in North Haven by the United Auto Workers. Over 15,000 Pratt & Whitney workers in East Hartford just signed a contract calling for an 8% first year wage increase.

WORKING CLASS MAJORITY

The average production worker, many of whom are nonunion, is getting \$139 a week in straight hourly rates, and makes \$6,750 per year. According to Andrew Levinson in an article in *The Nation*, the majority of Americans "are working class, not middle class." "Economic insecurity, manual labor, and a life style based on scarcity, even in relation to a 'middle income' standard of living, is a condition of a majority of Americans." Most Americans are stuck with the grind of working class culture, where every week is a fight with a job and the pay check and the bill collectors - yet these Americans are told by well-paid and supposedly intelligent experts that the country will get back on its feet if they will suffer more.

UAW Washington Report

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

At the same time as 6% of the people in the United States are unemployed, 25% of our capacity to produce is not being used. According to the UAW Washington Report real unemployment is 9.2% of the work force if you count the unemployed, the underemployed and the discouraged; Unused machines, unemployed workers, and millions of people without the necessities to survive stand side by side.

Independent Union At P&W Petitions For Election

by Henry Tamarin
Modern Times Staff

A movement is underway this month at the Pratt and Whitney plant in North Haven by a "rump" union, the Independent Aircraft Machinists, to wrest control away from the incumbent United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1234, to represent the workers in collective bargaining. The Independent Aircraft Machinists presented a petition to the National Labor Relations Board Regional Office in Boston seeking a new election in the bargaining unit.

Mr. Joe DeRoy, Pratt and Whitney worker and president of the International Aircraft Machinists stated that, "the UAW did a good job but they can't do anything more for us." Some of the earlier pre-1969 feeling among certain members was that the UAW was too Detroit oriented and failed to give sufficient support to the North Haven local. Mr. DeRoy continued to say, "in the past three years we feel the UAW should have woken up. They just sat back in their chairs and let things con-

tinue the way they were."

"We hope," said Mr. DeRoy, "to eventually affiliate with the International Association of Machinists and to have one master contract and one expiration date with all the other locals in Connecticut Pratt and Whitney plants. We would be more powerful and gain greater equity for the workers if we could go to the company as essentially one bargaining unit."

Other Plants in IAM

Other state Pratt and Whitney plants include those at Southington, Middletown, and East Hartford. They are all represented by the International Association of Machinists.

Mr. Walter Lynn, Chairman of the Shop Committee of the established Local 1234 said that "people complain about the UAW but don't support it. We have an open shop here and each and everyone should be getting behind the union and working to support it. We were building up to the 1969 negotiations to the point where we had 75% of the shop and it's at the point now where we're lucky if we have 50% of the shop signed up. Management can walk all over us."

Justin Ostrow, Grand Lodge Representative for the International Association of Machinists at the East Hartford Pratt and Whitney plants as recently as last month reaffirmed the "no raid" agreement arrived at nationally by the UAW and the International Association of Machinists. He stated at a January 16 membership meeting of Local 1234 UAW in Wallingford, that his union would continue to recognize the UAW's jurisdiction in North Haven and would do so even if they were decertified.

Three Sided Affair

Mr. DeRoy said that he was aware of Mr. Ostrow's statement on behalf of the IAM and the national level agreement but said that their members were hopeful that something could be worked out after they gained representation of the bargaining unit.

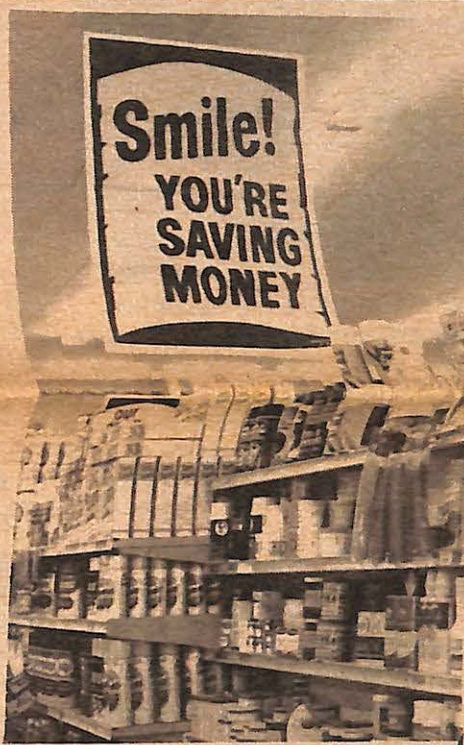
In response to a statement that the UAW was not going far enough with its joint working agreement with the International Association of Machinists, Mr. Lynn of the UAW stated that there is a unity program and our aim is to work out a common agreement. He went on to say, "we must develop strength in our own union and that has to be done independently of other unions."

By law, any union seeking a new election in a plant that already has a union must file a petition representing over 30% of the eligible workers between 90 and 60 days before contract expiration. The current contract, negotiated in 1969 expires in May. There are currently about 3200 eligible employees.

This is the second time around for the Independent Aircraft Machinists at the North Haven plant. They sought a representation election in 1969 but failed in their bid because of an insufficient number of signatures collected before the deadline. The NLRB rested on its decision after acting on unfair labor practice charges filed by the union through their New Haven attorney Gerald Braffman, against the Pratt and Whitney Corp. for intimidating workers during their petition drive.



"Smile, You're Saving Money" reads a sign in a local supermarket. Meanwhile shoppers are not smiling as they hunt for bargains. The Connecticut Citizens Action Group in a recent survey of New Haven area supermarkets has found that food prices have gone up 1.7% over the last two months - this is an annual rate of over 10%! (M-T photos by Ray Milici.)



Labor Faces Board Head-On

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

In the last few months, unions all over the country have been bargaining for new contracts with the yoke of the Pay Board around their necks. Companies point to the 5.5 per cent Pay Board guideline and unions are reluctant to go too far beyond that point.

The United Auto Workers Local 979 at G & O in New Haven just settled for a first year wage increase of 8% and the International Association of Machinists Local 1376 at Atlantic Wire in Branford won a 6½% first year raise after a five week strike. Both are awaiting final Pay Board approval.

Unions negotiate, strike if necessary, and then must submit the agreement reached to the Pay Board. The process of collective bargaining is now more difficult than standing up against a huge corporation, and this recent situation adds a new dimension to the kind of strength the labor movement needs.

The Pay Board has trimmed wage increases of 200,000 aerospace workers from 12% to 8% in an industry beset with heavy layoffs. The West Coast Dock workers who have approved a negotiated wage package which calls for a 35% increase over the next 18 months present a different situation.

After a 134 day strike, interrupted by an 80-day Taft-Hartley injunction, all of the 14,000 members of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union returned to work by February 22 in ports from San Diego to Seattle.

Nixon Pushes Compulsory Arbitration

Nixon had tried to bypass the Pay Board by pushing a compulsory arbitration law for the West Coast dock workers. He signed the bill into law in Peking on February 21 after the strike had been settled.

The International Longshoremen's Association, representing East Coast dock workers, has negotiated a 16.5% wage hike and with the west coast union will present a united front against Pay Board interference. If the dock workers do go out on strike in defiance of the Pay Board, Nixon still has the compulsory arbitration law he signed in Peking to force at least the West Coast back to work.

Memories of the bloody San Francisco general strike in 1934 when the West Coast dock union was formed, the unity of East and West Coast unions, and statements by Harry Bridges (West Coast longshore union president) of the unity with longshoremen in other countries indicate that American longshoremen are not willing to tolerate government interference.

The showdown on the docks is coming

up just as the Pay Board thought it was beginning to control wages. The board, with all five labor members dissenting, ordered that all second and third year contract increases in excess of 7% must be reviewed. The Pay Board had also voted to allow merit increases of up to seven per cent.

In New York, bus and subway employees voted to accept a new 27 month contract with a pay boost very close to the Pay Board's ceiling. A seven month strike by New York telephone maintenance workers also ended last week calling for a first year increase of 19 per cent - more than triple the Pay Board standard.

Both the New York telephone workers and the West Coast longshoremen began their strikes before wage controls were instituted. Long months on the picket line will not be given up so easily to the decision of the Pay Board.

How Much Is \$1 Million

GM yearly sales: \$24 billion
Federal budget proposed for 1973: \$247 billion

City of New Haven: \$70 million
Yale University: \$100 million
Connecticut: \$1.5 billion

How much is one million dollars? How much is one billion dollars? At present pay scales (average income for American workers about \$7000 per year) 30 years of work will yield \$350,000. So one million dollars is the lifetime work of three people. One billion dollars is the working lives of 3000 Americans.

Tax Adjustments Effect Everyone

Gift To Corporations

W-4 Can Cut Your Taxes

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

The Revenue Act of 1971 gives away over \$83 billion to American Corporations in the next decade. The tax cuts for individuals from the same law should amount to about \$17 billion by 1982.

For a family of four earning \$10,000 per year the tax cuts amount to about six per cent in 1972 and less in years to follow. On the other hand, for a typical American corporation, the tax giveaways amount to a permanent yearly cut of 15 to 20 per cent.

Tax Bonanza

The 1971 Revenue Act gave American corporations a double-barreled tax bonanza—a new business depreciation system and a seven per cent investment tax credit. In combination, these provisions reduce business taxes by over \$5 billion in 1972 rising to an average of \$9 billion per year for 1975 and thereafter.

Corporations, which paid almost a third of tax revenue in the 1960's, will pay only one fourth in the 1970's. Individual workers will, of course, make up the difference.

The new machine-depreciation system speeds up the tax write-off allowed for the "using up" of equipment. Under prior law, if a company wrote off a \$50,000 piece of machinery over its normal useful life -- say 10 years -- the yearly tax deduction was \$5,000.

Under the new depreciation system, the "useful life" can be shortened on paper by 20 percent -- to eight years. As a result, the company's annual deduction jumps to \$6,250. Most corporations will realize an increase of 25 percent in tax savings from the new law.

Investment Tax Credit

The investment tax credit is a more direct giveaway. If a business buys some new machinery or equipment it deducts seven per cent of the cost from its federal tax bill. For example, if a company buys a piece of equipment worth \$10,000 it simply subtracts \$700 from its federal tax bill. The company can still take depreciation write-offs based on the full cost of the machine.

Both these incentives to corporate expansion were publicized by Nixon as tax-relief to create new jobs. Yet neither

tax provision requires a company to hire new workers in order to receive a tax break. In fact, nothing prevents a corporation from cashing in on the new tax giveaways while laying off workers.

Export Taxes Lowered

The third major tax break is the Domestic International Sales Corporation (DISC). Under DISC, half of the profits of export subsidiaries of American corporations are exempt from taxes. This provision was supposed to spur exports and help the unfavorable balance of trade but companies will benefit from the DISC whether their exports increase, decrease, or remain the same.

As you fill out your tax return and consider the tax cuts for the coming year, remember that the tax break for a family of four earning \$10,000 per year is about the same as a business receives under the investment credit for buying an electric typewriter and an adding machine. Information taken from: "Tax Justice: A Giant Step Backward," by Arnold Cantor, *The Federationist*, Jan., 1972.

Money Talks ★★★★★



by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

"To them that hath shall be given. From them that hath not, shall be taken, yea, even that which they have not." That pretty much sums up the income tax racket. There's already plenty of evidence to prove it, but two recent events bring the whole smelly mess right up to our noses.

First there's the new question, appearing for the first time, on the Income Tax Form 1040, which we all have to file by April 15. And second there is the story of Howard Hughes and Clifford Irving, or rather, certain little details of that story.

Question No. 31 on your Income Tax Form 1040 asks, "Did you, at any time during the taxable year (1971), have any interest in or signature or other authority over a bank, securities, or other financial account in a foreign country?" Why does the law now force us to answer this question?

Appalachia for The Appalachian's, Theme of Mountaineer's Struggle



(M-T photo by Paul Gill)

The truth about the heritage of the Appalachian people reached many New Haveners last week, when Don West toured the area. West is director of the Appalachian South Folklife Center in

his life to the struggle to make "Appalachia for the Appalachians".

During his talks at University of New Haven, Yale, University of Bridgeport and on the RSVP program of radio station WELI, West emphasized his point that Appalachia is a colonial territory being exploited by outside mining interests. He exploded the stereotypes of Appalachian people put forth in the mass media as "hillbillies" and right-wingers. West explained that his people have a strong anti-slavery heritage. Over 250,000 mountaineers fought in the Union army to defeat slavery.

The Folklife Center hosts a music festival in Pipestem each summer and provides scholarships for poor Appalachian youth for their training in education and political action. West's stay was hosted by Willard and Ola Uphaus, who gave him a dinner party pictured above. He will return in a year for fund-raising and to provide more education.

There is supposed to be a federal income tax cut this year, but unless you request a W-4 form and fill it out for an extra dependent, you won't see the money until tax time a year from now.

Here's how the contradiction has come about. In previous years, withholding rates didn't get as much money for Uncle Sam during the year as was owed when tax time came around.

This year, the government has decided to make everyone pay more. Although Congress has cut taxes, it has also raised withholding rates. The only way to get around this is to request a W-4 form from your employer and to claim an extra dependent.

To be more precise, the government used to compute withholding rates as taxes on earnings over \$1050, the old minimum standard deduction. This year, although the minimum standard deduction has gone up to \$1300, the government has decided to compute

withholding on earnings over \$550.

For example, if you earn \$100 a week, you paid \$700 a week in withholding tax last year. This year you will pay \$7.20 if you claim the same deductions.

Money a Year Late

At the end of the year, you'll get your money back since there is a general tax cut (minimum standard deduction is higher and deductions per dependent are higher). But by claiming an extra dependent now (filling out the W-4 form) you will be able to spend the money during the year, or bank it and draw interest.

According to the W-4 form, if you are married and your spouse does not work, you are entitled to a "special dependency allowance." By claiming this additional exemption, your withholding rate would then reflect the true tax rate. The \$100 per week worker would then have \$4.90 per week withheld instead of \$7.20.

Swiss Aid Tax Dodgers ★★★★★



We can get to the bottom of this by asking and answering another question. Did you ever wonder how a small, mountainous, landlocked little country like Switzerland got to be so incredibly rich, prosperous and powerful? Well, it wasn't done by selling cheese with holes in it, or chocolate bars, or wrist watches. No, strange as it may sound, it was money - cold cash - that made and still makes Switzerland rich.

Secret Swiss Bank Accounts

It turns out that a very big chunk - no one knows the figures, or rather, those who know aren't telling - of the money that keeps settling in Switzerland comes from the good old USA. What lures the Americans with money is the bank secrecy laws of Switzerland, which require a bank not to divulge any information on any individual's account to anyone.

The only exception is when Swiss legal authorities know of a crime whose solution requires information about an account. That was how we all found out where Clifford Irving's wife put all that money that Howard Hughes never got.

So rich Americans discovered that they could open an account in Geneva or Zurich that no one would ever know about back home. That account could be used to buy and sell stocks and bonds, earn dividends, interest, etc. BUT since the account was secret and since Swiss banks would not reveal anything about the account, the American could happily earn income on which he paid no US income tax at any time. How nice. Fool-proof tax evasion. The Internal Revenue Service would never know nor could it find out about the Swiss stash which any American might choose to start up. The Swiss banks very conveniently offer foreigners the pos-

sibility of opening "numbered" accounts, where all business of the account is done by number, so even the tellers or anyone reading documents on the account would not ever see your name or anything.

Rich People's Problems

So if you were rich enough to find it worthwhile to pay several hundred dollars to go over to Switzerland at least once a year to handle the account, you were likely to be unpleasantly surprised at Question 31 in this year's tax form. For you, there is now a new problem. If you tell the truth and admit that you have a Swiss stash, you will be giving the IRS boys a big clue that you probably didn't pay taxes for the last few years on the income you earned abroad. You can expect them to come snooping around any day.

On the other hand, if you lie and say you don't have a Swiss account when you really do, consider the charming possibilities. Some middle level executive of your Swiss bank may decide to blackmail you. He's got the goods on you. If you don't pay him, he'll just send an anonymous letter to the IRS about you - and won't there be trouble then.

One moral which this sad story makes crystal clear is that people with lots of money sure have a hard time managing to keep it and enlarge it. You really have to feel for their hard struggles. You know, there isn't so much difference between the rich and the rest of us, after all. We struggle hard to get it, while they struggle hard to keep it and enlarge it, that is, to keep us from getting it.

Of course, the taxes that the Government can't get out of the rich it will try to pull from us. As stated at the beginning of this article, "To them that hath ... and all that."

Local Unionists Hold Job Safety Meeting Here

Continued from page 1

for each worker's hearing, it could be determined if job noise was undermining their health and could provide a legal basis for compensation in the event of hearing loss. In the workshops at the end of the conference a worker told of conditions of work next to a noisy compressor room — "after 20 minutes our nerves are so tight we're ready to go after each other, and we take those tight nerves home with us."

Many of the political and legal problems in enforcing job safety were also discussed at the conference. As part of the kit handed out in the conference was a paper on recommended contract language in occupational safety and health. Recommendations included a clause on the right of employees to have universally accepted safety standards adhered to in the shop, to have access to the log of accidents and injuries and to have a strong recognized Safety Committee.

A United Rubber Worker representative, working at Armstrong, pointed out that if a lot of people open their mouths they "will be out on the street" and that these people have to be protected. Related to this problem is the threat of runaway shops in which employers go to other regions or even other countries to escape strict health and safety and pollution laws.

By the end of the conference it had become clear that the enforcement of job health and safety standards would be a long and arduous fight. The Department of Labor Occupational Health and Safety Enforcement office in this region was understaffed and did not have one member from the ranks of labor. Vincent Sirabella closed the conference on the note that labor needed allies such as MCHR and Connecticut Citizens Action Group which have expressed an interest in getting the Occupational Health and Safety Law enforced from a labor point of view.

Citizen Group Survey Shows: Food Prices Continue To Climb

by Modern Times Staff

Food prices in the New Haven area have soared 1.7% in the past two months, according to a detailed survey of seven towns released February 28 by the Nader-initiated Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). The survey, part of a statewide and national effort by consumer groups to monitor and hold down food prices, indicates that increases amount to more than twice the government's Phase II guidelines.

The most staggering increases revealed were in meat prices, amounting to 7.8% in the stores surveyed. "And that figure is for only two months," said a CCAG spokesman. "It shows that the administration's economic game plan is a hoax."

According to the survey results, items covered by Phase II guidelines jumped an average of 1.1%, while items exempt from the guidelines (including fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats) skyrocketed 3.0% in the two-month period. "Even for controlled items," said the CCAG spokesman, "increases are over two times the original price increase ceilings imposed by the administration."

*by Tony Dominski
Modern Times Staff*

On Saturday, February 19, an Occupational Safety and Health Conference was held at the Yale School of Medicine. It was sponsored by the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council and the New Haven Chapter of the Medical Committee for Human Rights (MCHR). It was part of a national series of MCHR conferences including one held in Chicago and another planned for Lexington, Kentucky on March 3-4.

The conference designed a plan to initiate effective enforcement of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1970. Thus far the federal government has hired only 500 inspectors to aid enforcement of the law among four million workplaces.

And of 5000 penalties already paid by companies, the average fine was only \$18 — a sum which pays employers to maintain their violations rather than spend the money to correct them.

Panels on Job Safety

There was a HEW film on the history of occupational health, a panel of workers, chaired by Vincent Sirabella of the Central Labor Council, a panel from MCHR and finally a roundtable workshop discussion with general participation.

Lou DeMartino of the United Electrical Workers (UE) from Sargents, Ernest Wolf of the United Steelworkers (USA) from the Bullet Machine Tool Co., Lionell of Local 614 and Paul Abel of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Lodge 700 from United Aircraft were on the workers' panel. They described problems with dust, fumes, noise pollution and accidents from defective equipment.

Williams and Wolf commented that there was a high rate of heart attacks among their fellow workers which might be due to factors such as high noise levels which raise blood cholesterol levels. Lou DeMartino explained how the ventilation at the Sargent Company is poorer in the winter because the company has an aversion to heating so they cut the rate of fresh air circulation.

CCAG stressed the difficulty of checking the legality of price increases. "In some supermarkets it would take nothing short of an audit of the entire store to rest the legality of the price of a can of beans." CCAG concluded that President Nixon's invitation for consumers to help monitor Phase II has turned into a dare.

If the price increases are calculated on an annual basis, all foods will increase an average of 10% this year, and meat alone promises to increase a staggering 46%.

Chains which had consistently lower prices than the others included Hills-Korvette, A-Mart, and Big Buy. Chains with consistently higher prices were A & P, Atlantic, and Consumers Coop. First National stores were generally in the middle price range, while Peggatros stores were usually above average and Stop & Shop below average in price.

CCAG asked for volunteers to assist the continuing food price monitoring effort in the New Haven area. Interested persons are encouraged to contact Michael Kane at the CCAG New Haven office, 53 Wall Street, 787-7186.

Labor Panel to Enforce Safety Law

Sirabella summed up the panel. He described the long history unions have in dealing with health and safety problems. One example was Labor's efforts in the enactment of the Williams-Steiger bill and their continued efforts in its enforcement. Sirabella also stated that labor is often overwhelmed by the vast resources of management, and is happy to get help from organizations such as MCHR.

Give Workers the Power

The MCHR panel was introduced by John Smolowe of New Haven MCHR. It consisted of Phyllis Cullen and Bill McCrimmen of the National Occupational Health Task Force, Mike Charney of the New Haven MCHR and Sid Wolfe, director of the Nader Health Research Group. The panel emphasized that its main task would be to give workers the power to change their working conditions, mostly by providing information on the effects of working conditions on health and on the ways to get the Williams-Steiger bill enforced.

Bill McCrimmins emphasized that the technical information obtained by health resource people be very sound

technically to prevent the employer-hired experts and company doctors from shooting it down.

Language of the Law

Sid Wolfe showed that the language of the law gives workers the right to be informed about their own physical condition and on the levels of contaminants in their workplaces. However, the companies are most reluctant to give out this information. He suggested that levels of workmans' compensation for injuries be raised to ten to one hundred times current levels to reflect real damages and to give employers an economic incentive to provide safe working conditions.

In the roundtable workshop at the end of the conference workers and health personnel agreed that a good strategy for working was to assign one health professional to each workplace. This would enable a rapport to be developed and enable the health person to become familiar with the health problems and problems of enforcement in a local area.



Workers' panel chaired by Vincent Sirabella discusses job safety problems at MCHR conference on February. (M-T photo by Vittorio Comisso.)

Health Confab Here

*by Dan Vapnek
Modern Times Staff*

Calling for an end to the "obscenity of profit making in health care," Quentin Young opened the Northeast Regional Conference of the Medical Committee for Human Rights (MCHR). The conference was held in New Haven on Feb. 18-20.

The conference, which was sponsored by the New Haven chapter of MCHR attracted over 100 participants from 15 MCHR chapters throughout the Northeast. Members from all of the chapters shared their ideas and discussed various health projects that they are working on.

In the area of Occupational Safety, Young spoke of the need to bring medical and other health schools together with trade unions and health activists to attack the problems. He called on the health care system to accept the challenge and develop people with skills to introduce the teaching of occupational safety in Medical, Nursing, and Public Health Schools and to develop new ways to apply and enforce federal standards.

Free Health Clinics

The workshop on free health clinics was led by the New Haven chapter. Discussions covered all the areas of establishing and maintaining Free Health Clinics, and all the problems involved.

Most of the participants felt that the main function of the clinics should be to provide preventative care rather than only to treat sick people.

There are currently over 200 free clinics in the U. S. with two in New Haven. These are The People's Free Health Clinic run by the Black Panther Party and the Fair Haven Free Health Clinic run by the Alliance for Latin American Progress.

A workshop on Patients' rights was led by the Mental Patients for Political Action Committee (MP-PAC). The group, which was composed of former 'mental' patients, described the treatment of patients in mental hospitals as "punishment and constraint administered by tranquilizers and shock therapy." According to MP-PAC, the treatment is administered against the will of the patient and is given and withdrawn as a form of punishment. The abridgement of patients' freedom in mental hospitals was termed "civic death" where all constitutional rights have been suspended.

Prison Health

At the prison health workshop, the New Haven chapter told of a coalition, Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions, which MCHR has formed with other community groups in New Haven. This group, with the aid of former prisoners, has been trying to set up prison health standards. Currently, there are no standards for health services in Connecticut prisons.

Some suggestions were that prison health should be run by the State Department of Health or by contract with medical schools, rather than be administered by the Department of Corrections.

Other events at the conference included a film on abortion where women who had had abortions explained their feelings and experiences. There was a stark contrast between the horrors that women who had gotten illegal abortions had gone through, with the painlessness and lack of trauma when legal abortions had been performed.

A slide show on the war in Indochina was also held. A Medical Committee for Indochina has been formed to aid the victims of the war throughout Indochina. The Committee is currently collecting medical supplies to send to war victims.

Editorial

The Unfair Lottery

People in Connecticut are buying lottery tickets. The politicians are happy. More millions of dollars are flowing into the State treasury and the politicians didn't have to raise taxes to get those millions.

"The lottery is a good thing: people won't be going down to New York anymore to buy tickets there. The money will go to Connecticut, which is better." And another ticket-holder says, "You know what makes the lottery good? Part of the money that the State earns selling us tickets will end up making some lottery winner awfully happy. That's more than you can say about most of the money we pay to the State in taxes and fees."

People are buying tickets because they know that anyone can win. But we also know that only a tiny, tiny few will win. Yet betting lures us: something about a chance -- even a tiny one -- to win big really touches many of us in a strange way.

But why do States start lotteries? Knowing the answer may or may not take the pleasure out of the lottery for you. But least we all will know exactly what we are doing. It's nothing more than a gimmick to allow state governments to keep their unfair tax systems going.

Saves the Corporations from Taxation

Everyone knows that the states are in financial trouble. In Connecticut as elsewhere the politicians try to find new, clever ways to solve their money woes. Being conservative and, in most cases, earning their personal livelihoods by serving the major corporations, the governors and state legislators refuse to raise taxes on corporations. Instead, they've settled on the lottery. The odds in all legalized gambling make it absolutely sure that the state will get more money from bettors than it pays to them in winnings. A lot more. But the money the state rakes in does not have to be called what it really is: a tax. Instead, the public "buys" something: the pleasure of betting.

So the middle and low income working people will give the state the extra millions it needs after all. No need for the politicians to tax the corporations. Sure, a few lucky souls will win and the rest of us will keep betting with the hope that one day we too will be in the money. But the bets we make are only taxes by another name.

Lottery Hits Poor, Not Rich

The odds, the losses and the wins, are the same for rich and poor bettor alike. The unfairness of the sales tax is the same as the unfairness of legalized gambling. It's a tax gimmick whose real purpose is to save Connecticut's major corporations from the taxes that they are best able to pay and would otherwise have to pay.

The moral of the story: the lottery is just like a sales tax, hitting middle and poor more than the rich who are in a better position to pay the tax.

For those of us who like to bet, let's have a lottery which is run like a shop or office pool. Everyone who wants to can put in, and the person closest to the winning number takes the pot. But why mix us a lottery with the state's tax needs? The state is playing on people's understandable desire to win big in order to sneak extra taxes from them. Keep the tax issue separate. Tax the largest corporations and wealthy individuals who both benefit most from state policies and who are best able to afford to pay.

Connecticut has a long and not very honorable history of refusing to tax its most eligible taxpayers. The 16th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which legalized the income tax and ushered in the tax principle that the richest should pay the most taxes, was ultimately ratified in 1913 by all but three States in this country: Utah, Rhode Island and, believe it or not, Connecticut. Letting the State politicians continue to use the lottery to maintain an unjust tax system would be keeping up a bad Connecticut habit that we should get rid of as fast as possible.

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all comments and letters to
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Write On

Message From UFW

Dear Friends .

Two thousand one hundred ninety days have passed since we struck against the grower's empire six years ago. Victory was achieved on July 29, 1970.

For the first time as a light of hope dawned in the life of the farmworker, others who make their life in the farm came into view. Now we find we have just begun to fight. Farmworkers everywhere suffer the same misery in the fields as the grape pickers. Some are in worse condition.

We aim to continue the fight for all farmworkers. . . .

You stood by our side when we began to fight. You helped us win victories. You gave us clothes, food, money and shelter. You have given of yourself in the cold, snow, rain and heat on the picketline everywhere across the land and on distant shores. You gave us hope and strength and consoled us when we lost our homes, automobile, TV and many precious belongings.

You stood by us then . . . Now, we still see you standing by our side.

In acknowledgement of your support and dedication that we, too, may enjoy the kind of life most Americans now enjoy . . . we convey to you this warm and cordial message with much gratitude.

Cesar E. Chavez Pete G. Velasco
Director Defense Fund

Please send all contributions payable to:
Strike Defense Fund
P.O. Box 130
Delano, Calif. 93215

CHCP Correction

To the Editors:

I should like, if I may, to correct some parts of the article about the Community Health Care Center Plan (CHCP) which appeared in your February 1 issue -- especially certain quotes attributed to me. My discontent with medical practice has been largely the result of the financial barrier which is interposed between a patient and his or her access to medical care in traditional fee-for-service medical care. A prepaid comprehensive health plan such as CHCP serves to remove that barrier. Because CHCP is a prepaid plan, the cost of medical care can in large measure be budgeted. Once prepayment costs have been made by or on behalf of a family, that family has access to medical care at all times. I as a physician, then, can concern myself with providing that family with the best medical care I know how to provide.

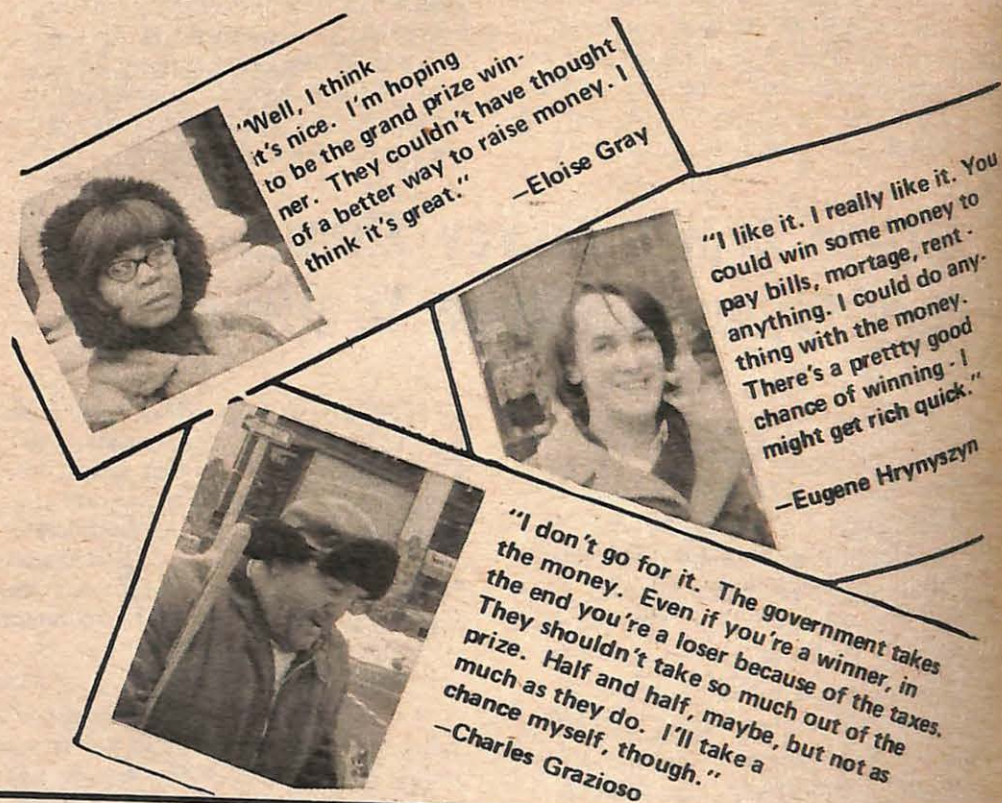
There were certain factual inaccuracies in your article which I believe it would be wise to clarify. Many people assisted in the development of the Community Health Center Plan. The idea for such a plan was initiated in the early 1960s by the Greater New Haven Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and independent unions in the area. From the outset, they had the support of various groups and individuals -- especially I. S. Falk, Ph. D., then professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, and now executive director of the Plan. The medical profession as an organized group did not, however, participate in the development of the Plan. The program today has broad-based community support. Individual physicians in the community serve on the Board of Directors of CHCP as do nurses, dentists, representatives of management, labor and the community.

I am sure you will want these inaccuracies corrected.

Sincerely yours,

Paul H. Laviertes, M.D.

People View The Lottery



MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them in their own words. There is no place else where the hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need -- not what is profitable. The American Independent Movement (AIM) has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

Irish Fight English Imperialism In Ulster

This is the first of a series of articles covering the political situation in Ireland.

by Brad Blaney
An IRA Supporter

The author was born in Ireland and now works in New Haven. He has been an active supporter of the IRA (Irish Republican Army) in Ireland, Britain, Australia and the United States.

I am Irish, and I am angry. I am angry at the rulers of Britain for oppressing my country since they first invaded it eight hundred years ago. I am angry at the American big business press like the *New Haven Register* for distorting the present struggle in Northern Ireland and making it seem a religious war between Catholics and Protestants with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) smeared as "terrorists."

That struggle is not a religious war. It is a struggle for the unification of a nation divided by a foreign power and a struggle for the rights of workers of all creeds.

The British are not in Ireland as peace-makers between Catholics and Protestants. The British have traditionally tried to divide different religious groups so as to make it easier to rule them both. One technique of their strategy has been to give Protestants certain "privileges" denied to Catholics.

This tactic was particularly applied in the Irish province of Ulster, which was cut apart by the British during the revolution of 1916-1923, with a section made



Brad Blaney (M-T photo by Alan Kay.)

into the mongrel state of Northern Ireland. There is no demographic, topographic, historic or other basis on which Northern Ireland was founded.

Ulster was cut apart with the specified purpose of getting a Protestant majority in the new state. This partition was the same as if the American South was cut into sections to give white racists control. The nature of the human animal projects results with accuracy. The Irish tricolor is increasingly being flown by workers all over Ulster in defiance of the British.

Tory Response

The response of Edward Heath, Prime Minister of the "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland," to this developing struggle for independence has shown that he is indeed a Tory worthy of that reactionary, imperialist name. Under his internment policy, troops hold members of the IRA, Nationalists, and civil rights leaders in jail without trial. Some civil rights leaders have been dragged through the streets by the hair of their heads. Even members of Parliament have been arrested. In jail the internees are subjected to brutal and inhuman treatment.

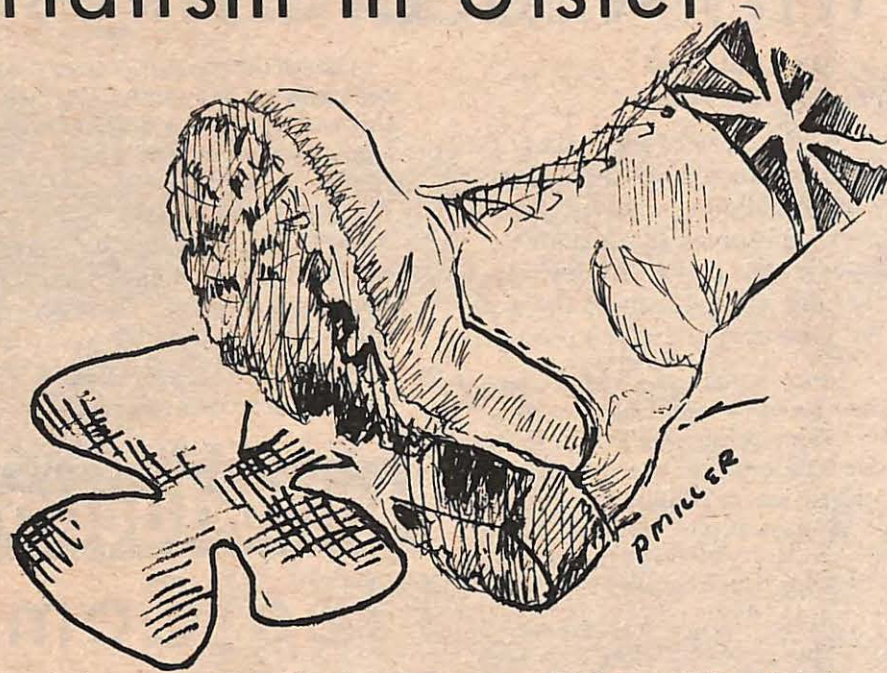
Trigger-happy troops stalk the streets of Belfast and Derry, while Heath goes to racing.

These are the troops who shot Harry Torn on his way to work, who shot Father Hugh Mullinan as he gave last rites, who shot deaf mute Eamonn Devitt as he waved to neighbors, who gunned down the 13 people on Derry's "Bloody Sunday." Heath has consistently rejected a request by British Labour Party leader Harold Wilson that Parliament debate the situation in Northern Ireland. A formal request from the parliamentary opposition to debate an issue is almost always granted. But, as far as Mr. Heath is concerned, not when it concerns the Irish people.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the British Prime Minister has decided on the dangerous course of using only military means to settle the Irish question. Watch out, Mr. Heath!

The New Street Fighters

The tragedy of Mr. Heath's complete reliance on a military solution is that it cannot work and can only lead to more turmoil and prolonged bloodshed. A friend of mine just came back from Ireland. While there, he was in Dublin down at the old Coombs Hospital watching the relatives of internees as they came in from Ulster. One young boy of about six was sitting on the steps outside the Hospital.



At first the boy was very friendly, obviously happy to be in the south of Ireland where people were kindred spirits, but when my friend asked the boy if his daddy was with him, the child's face clouded and became wary. The daddy had stayed home. My friend asked why. "He was afraid the house would be burned down," the boy replied. My friend asked him, "Where do you live?" The boy's face

became completely inscrutable. He had been asked questions like that before in Belfast, and even at the age of six, he had learned that it is best not to answer. My friend left it at that. It makes you wonder just what will become of these children in later life.

The tension and terror in the north by the British army have bred the street fighters of another generation.

People keep asking me who are the IRA. The IRA are the risen people, Mr. Heath! The so-called minority in the North is really the majority of the country of Ireland who will never again be put down or shrugged aside. The future IRA will be made up of boys like this little boy of six, Mr. Heath.

History of Struggle

The IRA are not terrorists. They are working class revolutionaries using what methods they can to get the British out of Ireland just as American revolutionaries got them out of America. The same pro-imperialists who called John Hancock and John Adams terrorists, who called the Minutemen and citizens of Boston radical scum, are using exactly the same terms today in describing the IRA, which is simply fighting for decency and freedom.

By the time Columbus landed in America, Ireland had been under English rule for over 300 years. A few years after Columbus landed, a law was passed giving the Irish no say whatsoever in conducting their own affairs. For 100 years before the Pilgrims landed, the Irish suffered from the Penal Laws, under which they had absolutely no right to own land or even a horse.

Thirty years after the Pilgrims landed in America, the Irish were massacred Mylly-style by the British. Men, women, children and even babies that could not walk were killed. As the gentle English put it, "Lice will become Gnats."

Many of the same economic conditions exercised by the British against the American colonists were also effective in Ireland and destroyed thriving woolen and other industries.

Protestants Active

Protestants have provided some of the best leaders of every revolt against Britain. The Irish struggle is of Ireland against Britain, poor against rich, not Catholic against Protestant.

The terrible Irish famine of the 1840's put immigrants on American shores by the hundreds of thousands. Absentee British landlords used the famine as an opportunity to destroy the Irish people, who after hundreds of years were still seeking freedom.

And this history is why I am angry, and why I say:

*Down now we pluck the Union Jack,
Never to rise again.
The green alone shall wave above
Over native field and flood,
The spotless green,
Except when in fold
With English blood.*

Open Line

Unionists Should Unite

by Joe Tinker

Protecting union members from their leaders is a pretty old game. When a strike takes place, or a union expresses a political position, we are sure to find editorials in papers ranging from the liberal *New York Times* to the conservative *New Haven Register* explaining how the leaders are not representing the 'true interests of their members.' If the papers aren't on the ball, the management very often communicates directly to the workers setting them straight.

Most working people are not surprised by the stance of these self-appointed saviors. That's part of the ball game and is generally good for a chuckle.

But it is not easy to identify the opposite side of this coin when expressed by a well-meaning and devoted unionist. An example of this attitude was contained in an article in a recent issue of *Modern Times*.

The writer was very critical of union leaders and at one point said, "They (union members) know that they are being screwed by the company and betrayed by their union." He adds, "They distrust anyone running for any office, from local dog catcher to the President of the United States."

Mort Sahl once said, about sociologists, "They take a random sampling and then they make broad, sweeping generalizations." I'm afraid this might apply to the writer of that article.

There is one simple fact about unions which is hard to disprove. And that is that the overwhelming majority of unions are built on a straightforward democratic structure. Most local unions meet once a month, members can get the floor, Robert's Rules govern the conduct of the meeting, nominations for office and elections are democratically run. Members of local unions have more control over their organization and their officers than citizens have over their elected representatives.

Unions More Democratic Than Gov.

Union officers must report their activities at every union meeting. Wouldn't it be great if our elected officials had to face the electors on the same regular basis?

Recall and impeachment procedures are a lot simpler than getting rid of an alderman.

All of this sounds almost too good to believe. Otherwise how do we account for so many disgruntled union members? The pity of it is that most members do not attend their union meetings. The person who bitches the most never goes - and on that rare occasion he or she sits in the back quiet like a mouse.

A union official is not an outsider - a superman or a superwoman - he or she is elected from the membership. On day the person is working next to you and the following day he or she is a union officer. He or she does not suddenly become a 'labor leader', or a 'betrayer.' The only way a union leader can do a proper job is with the help or at the direction of the membership. NO other way;

If the majority of the members stay away from meeting how can they know whether their leader is representing their interests? The union leader can only then do the best that he or she knows how, and the absent members have very little right to moan.

This leads to the concluding idea in the article I referred to at the beginning. The author recommends the organization of 'rank and file movements.' This would seem a natural conclusion - the unions are headed by 'mis-led officials' so the only way out is to organize a counter-movement.

This is not a new idea. It's been around since the 1920's and it wasn't a good idea then. Rank and file movements are, theoretically, an organization of the 'good ones' in a union to wipe out the 'bad ones.' Since they are a movement they require a structure, meetings, and in many instances newspapers or printed material. With leaders very often having the same power drive as the people they are trying to oust. All this activity means time, energy and often money.

For those members who feel their unions are not representative of their interests, the forum and channels to bring about changes exist in the vast majority of unions. Withdrawing the militant unionist into an enclave to conduct guerilla warfare against his or her officers can only benefit the employer.

Why Wildcat Strikes Are Sometimes Divisive

by Mike Holodnak
Modern Times Staff

Wildcat strikes are strikes that are unauthorized by the Union. They usually begin in one department and spread till the entire plant is shut down. In this way the problem that caused the walk-out is generally resolved promptly.

However, too many wildcats, in a short period of time, tend to be divisive. This is because the entire membership is seldom directly affected by the problem that caused the walk-out, and do not immediately know what the issues are, therefore they eventually resent losing time from work.

Actually, though, too many wildcat strikes in a Local Union is usually symptomatic of a weak and vacillating leadership, and a very bold and vicious corporate Management.

Most wildcats are precipitated by a stupid and incompetent Management. For example; work that is normally done in one department is moved to another department. Then the company puts the first department on a short work week and the second department on overtime. The people in the first department, whose paychecks are now shortened, are naturally angered by this move and immediately submit a grievance.

But the company arrogantly tells the Union that, since the work classifications are almost similar and overlap each other, the company is not violating the labor agreement. The Union argues that, though the company is legally right, it is morally wrong. Still, since the company operates by phoney laws and not by morality, it cites Management's prerogatives and, in effect, tells the Union to go to hell.

The Union leadership, hamstrung by a no-strike clause, is therefore forced to take the case into arbitration. The result is that people in the first department, not willing to wait and remain victims of an outright screwing, walk out and set up picket lines at all the plant gates. Many others, on learning of the walk-out, also leave the plant. Then the second shift refuses to cross the picket lines, and the plant is turned into a useless hulk.

The company seeing its profits threatened, immediately rectifies the inequity.

But the company, knowing it can always depend on the courts, deliberately engineers a series of short term wildcats to get an injunction against the Union. With a court injunction hanging over the Union's head, the Union is open to lawsuits that can bankrupt the Union out of existence.

Threatened, the Union will sometimes make the mistake of playing into the company's hands by instituting an anti-wildcat campaign, even allowing the company to take disciplinary action, in the form of suspensions, against so-called "ringleaders."

Yet, to the company, this is still not enough. So the company skillfully gets its friendly Arbitrator to make an anti-wildcat ruling. Then it has to get the Union to somehow accept it.

It does this by using a company stooge, within the Union, to fabricate an incident and then to call the Stewards and Committeemen together to stage a sit-down in the Cafeteria. The company officials, accompanied by plant guards, order them back to work. They refuse, and are led out of the plant, two guards to each man, in full view of many of the production people.

With their Union officials out of the plant, the rest of the Union members also leave.

Though the company knows it cannot legally get away with firing these Union officials it nevertheless has their termination put into Arbitration. There, after two days of haggling, the Union's Executive Board agrees to accept the Arbitrator's anti-wildcat Award if the company agrees to drop all charges against the sit-downers. The company - you guessed it - agrees.

True to form, the company then runs roughshod over its employees.

Yet, because workers are human

beings and can only take a certain amount of provocation from the company another wildcat still occurs. Only this time the anti-wildcat mentality has become so ingrained in them that all kinds of doubts and second thoughts spring up in their minds to the point where they talk each other into ending their picketing and going home. When the next shift arrives, and there are no pickets around, they naturally go in to work, and the 200 or so who had walked out, not only did not get their original problem resolved, but are now exposed to

termination.

Since the company is not eager to lose that many employees, it reviews all their records and selectively terminates only a handful. This handful is then put through the Arbitration farce, and the friendly Arbitrator upholds the company's right to fire them.

From then on all wildcats are ended, and the Union is terribly weakened.

For real survival, Unions must avoid this kind of trap.

Introduction to Socialism

Free Competitive System a Hoax

The ABC of Socialism
by Leo Huberman

What is socialism? What do socialists really believe? What's it got to do with America, with New Haven, with the here and now? In answer to questions like these from our readers, Modern Times decided to publish a series of articles from Leo Huberman's famous pamphlet, The ABC of Socialism. The following is the fifth in the series.

Monopoly

One of the greatest hoaxes ever perpetrated on the American people is the ever-repeated assertion that our economic system is one of "free private enterprise."

That is not true. Only part of our economic system is competitive, free, and individualistic. The remainder - and by far the most important part - is the exact opposite: monopolized, controlled, and collectivistic.

Competition, according to theory, was a fine thing. But capitalists found that practice didn't jibe with theory. They found that competition lessened profits while combination increased profits. They were interested in profits so why compete? It was better - from their point of view - to combine.

And combine they did - in oil, sugar, whiskey, iron, steel, coal, and a host of other commodities.

"Free competitive enterprise" was already on its way out as far back as 1875. By 1888 trusts and monopolies had

such a stranglehold on American economic life that President Grover Cleveland felt it necessary to sound a warning to Congress: "As we view the achievements of aggregated capital, we discover the existence of trusts, combinations, and monopolies, while the citizen is struggling far in the rear or is trampled to death beneath an iron heel. Corporations, which should be carefully restrained creatures of the law and servants of the people, are fast becoming the people's masters."

Through the marriage of industrial and finance capital, some corporations were able to expand to so great an extent that in some industries today a handful of firms, literally, produce more than half the total output or nearly all of it. In these industries, certainly, the "traditional American system of free competitive enterprise" no longer exists. In its place there is concentration of economic power in a few hands - monopoly.

Monopoly capitalists are in a position to fix prices. And they do. They fix them at that point where they can make the highest profits. They fix them by agreement among themselves; or by the most powerful corporation announcing the price and the rest of the industry playing the game of "follow the leader;" or, as frequently happens, they control basic patents and give licenses to produce only to those who agree to stay in line.

Monopoly makes it possible for the monopolists to accomplish their purpose - make tremendous profits. Competitive industries make profits in good times and show deficits in bad times. But for monopoly industries the pattern is different - they make tremendous profits in good times, and some profits in bad times.

The agitation against monopoly power and profits which began in the last quarter of the 19th century continued into the 20th century. But though much was said about the "growing evil," little was done about it. Neither the Federal Trade Commission nor the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice, even when they had the will to do something, was given the funds or the staff to do it with.

Whenever the charge is made that there is a dangerous concentration of power and wealth in the hands of a few, the apologists for Big Business deny that the picture is as bleak as it is painted. They argue that even where there are unnecessarily high profits, these profits are distributed to millions of people and not to a small group.

Who Owns Stocks?

But the argument that "the people" own American industry is phony. The number of stockholders in any company may indeed be large. But that is not significant. What is significant is how many own how much. What is significant is how the profits are divided among the shareholders. And the moment you get that figure, you find that "the people" as a body own a microscopic share of American industry, while a handful of Big Boys own most of it and reap the colossal profits. A tiny 1% of U.S. stockholders own 75% of all stocks.

At a special meeting January 31 the Dixwell Neighborhood Corporation presented citation awards to community agencies whose services were especially noteworthy in the eyes of the Dixwell neighborhood. The Stetson Library Center, 200 Dixwell Avenue, was honored by a special certificate of merit presented to Mrs. Edna Starks, branch librarian, who accepted the award on behalf of her staff. The library, a branch of the New Haven Free Public Library, is noted as a center which emphasizes special programs of neighborhood service. A special collection of materials relating to the black experience is complemented by after-school activities almost everyday. Arts and crafts, movies, storytelling and help with homework are reasons why the Stetson Library Center is a popular place with Dixwell's citizens. (M-T photo by Vittorio Comisso.)

Stetson Library



Canal Line Opposition Grows

The proposal for a rapid transit system down the old canal line, which runs from New Haven to Cheshire through the middle of Newhallville, ran into more opposition recently. The latest group to oppose it is the Human Relations Council of Greater New Haven.

As an alternative the Council suggested that "the Planning Commission persuade the Federal Government to subsidize free bus service during rush hours. This would accomplish the same result of relieving traffic without further burdening the already problem loaded residents of Newhallville.

In a recent statement the Council, with representatives from New Haven, Hamden, and Cheshire, acknowledged the fact that the claims of the project's proponents of relieving traffic congestion and air pollution are "important goals that must be reached," but that it was uncertain whether these results would in fact be achieved with the canal line.

"When this uncertain benefit is weighed against the obvious destructive effects on the Newhallville Community it is clear that the plan is unacceptable. The proposed plan would result in a fenced-off roadway forcing Newhallville residents to make long detour trips through side streets in order to get from one side of the street to the other.

Children Endangered

Area children will be faced with high speed buses along the road. There are bound to be incidents of children climbing the fence or cutting through to create short cuts with all the dangers of accidents this will bring. Bus traffic on this road will force Newhallville residents into tremendous traffic jams on the adjacent streets as they too go to and from work and home.

The Human Relations Council stated that the Planning Commission should find some alternative which "will not be for the suburban well-to-do at the expenses of the city poor."

Bridal Fair Target of Protesters

by Betsy Bryan
Women's Center

What place could be better to protest the dehumanization of women than the Bridal Fair? Sponsored by WNHC radio and numerous local retailers (among them Second National Bank and Pagnataro's) the Bridal Fair took place Sunday, February 19 and 20 at the Sheraton Park Plaza.

A group of women attended the Sunday morning session in order to distribute leaflets designed to raise questions and consciousness among the brides-to-be. Excerpts from the leaflet:

"These are the only ingredients of a good marriage: equal love and commitment from both wife and husband." So "Why must we assume that the celebration of marriage includes monumental spending by both bride and groom? Women today are being exploited by these businessmen. Their interest in us is commercial. . . Please unite with us and let the world know that love can not be bought and sold. Refute the myth that the highest bidder is the greatest lover. The businessmen depend on our believing that myth. Let's disappoint them!"

The leaflets were distributed quietly before the panel discussion and appeared to have been read along with the material handed out by the merchants. One woman was reported to have cried after reading the first paragraph of the leaflet. Only after the women's work was done did the sponsors discover their literature. By then the "damage" was done.

So on with the panel discussion. The group of experts on marriage included: Dr. Leonard Zamore, gynecologist, Father Randall Blackhall, Catholic Priest from the Hartford Archdiocese, Mr. Anthony Pagnataro, owner of local food stores, Mr. George Frank, Assistant Vice President of Second National Bank, and as a late concession to women's lib Ms. oops, Mrs. Susan Granger from Channel 8.

Questions were not solicited directly from the audience but were collected on pieces of paper. This avoided embarrassment for the "girls" if they wished to ask Dr. Zamore about so-called delicate topics, none of which were ever defined. Mr. Pagnataro, speaking on shopping, warned women that if they wanted men to do the food shopping, they would buy more expensive foods since they bought while on their way home from work, "and they're hungry." He did not discuss why men must be the only ones coming home from work.

Bad Planning Ruins Rivers

by Henry P. Shotwell

The author is a member of the Executive Committee, Housatonic Fly Fisherman's Association. He was recently named "Water Conservationist of 1971" by the Connecticut Wildlife Federation.

I am frequently asked "What is water pollution?" or "What causes it?" or "Who is responsible?" These are hard questions because the problem is complicated.

All water from such natural sources as artesian wells, springs, ponds, and mountain brooks contains small amounts of material drawn from surrounding rock or ground. When the amount of these materials becomes too great (say, in areas where there are iron mines or salt deposits for example), or if unnatural material is found, the water can be considered polluted. However, most polluted water is contaminated by either raw sewage or industrial waste or both.

There is a far more subtle and insidious cause of bad water; bad water in the sense that while it can be made fit to drink, it does not support life, and cannot act as an essential link in the chain of life upon which we all depend. I refer, of course, to Man.

Builders Pollute Water

Picturesque, babbling brooks flowing with cool, sweet bring up thoughts of a simple, tranquil existence, far from the hustle and bustle of the city or the suburbs. It is only to be expected that such settings command high prices in the marketplace. Enterprising developers buy small plots along such streams with the idea of building someone's dream house, and more importantly, realizing a profit in the process.

In the building business, as with many others, Time is Money. Banks lend money for building materials on a short term basis. The builder is forced to complete his construction as quickly as he



Drainage ditch into the West River near Washington Avenue. (M-T photo by Virginai Blaisdell.)

possibly can. Since the price for the land was high, not enough land is used to leave an adequate margin, or buffer zone, between the stream and the area where the bulldozer stripped off the trees and ground cover, prior to the start of construction.

Now the stage is set; a great deal of exposed soil lies slightly uphill of the stream. Too little vegetation lies between the water and the exposed land. During the next rainstorm, maybe a ton of soil will be washed into the stream as silt.

The particles of dirt in the stream cut away at the banks just as sand blasters clean grime from stone buildings. Soon these undercut banks will fall into the stream. Over the years the stream bed will become wider and wider, and the stream will get shallower and shallower.

Drying Up Life

This process can go on for years after

the builder put up the last building. Nor is this the only effect. Deep holes that harbor water plants, fish and stream insects begin to fill with silt, creating broad shallow sandy flats that are practically devoid of life. In areas that are already shallow, siltation may be so severe that islands are built up.

These "islands" slow and divert the natural current and may lead to pools of stagnant water. Under such conditions, spawning beds for aquatic insects, which constitute the bulk of fishes' food, are ruined and so are those of the fish. In stagnant areas, algae may accumulate to such a point that they use up the available oxygen in the water and render it uninhabitable for everything except certain bacteria.

Here we have a body of water that may be well oxygenated in most of its course, may be cool, clear and almost drinkable without any further treatment, and yet almost totally devoid of life. All attempts to reintroduce fish and other types of life in such a stream are certain to end in failure unless the basic problems are first corrected.

Water pollution is a serious problem "that is worsening the way we live so long as we don't make the changes needed to solve it."

International Women's Day

March 8, 1857 on the Lower East Side of New York City women textile garment workers demonstrated against the impoverishment of their working conditions, demanding equality for all working women, an end to the twelve hour day and raises of their below subsistence wages. Some of the women were arrested and others trampled in the confusion which followed when police brutally tried to disperse them.

On March 8, 1908 thousands of women from the needle trade industry marched again from the Lower East Side. This time in addition to the demands for shorter working hours and better working conditions were demands for women's suffrage and legislation against child labor.

In 1910, in Denmark at an Inter-

national Socialist Congress, March 8 was proclaimed International Women's Day. In recalling the 53 years of struggle since 1857, Clara Zetkin, a German Socialist active in the labor movement, proposed that a day be set aside in memory of that first demonstration to internationally commemorate women and their struggle. Her proposal was overwhelmingly accepted.



PERISCOPE On The Environment

LOBBYING CONTINUES AGAINST HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

The Connecticut Highway Coalition met Feb. 17 and decided to continue to support the Mettler bill which would abolish the Highway Trust Fund. Toward this end they are suggesting the following courses of action:

- 1) Contact town officials to get the Connecticut Conference of Mayors to take a stand on the highway fund issue.
- 2) Contact union officials to develop union support.
- 3) Try to create an alternate proposal to the Mettler bill, such as a moratorium on all highway construction pending an impartial study on the state's transportation needs.
- 4) Do a large scale public action such as a gasoline boycott in which people would slow down their use of cars.
- 5) Contacting State House of Representatives including Democrats Boggini, Clynes, Giamo, Mahoney, Reinhold, Provenzano, Bonetti and Duda; Republican House leaders and Senate Chairman of Finance Cutillo of Waterbury.

TOUGH LUCK

Lloyds of London, the famed British insurance syndicate has recently notified its customers that company officers who had been previously insured against lawsuits by stockholders will no longer be protected against suits for air and water pollution. Companies in food, meatpacking, soft drinks, tobacco, steel, paper power and plastic industries are most affected. Lloyds attributed its action to "the growing wave of consumerism sweeping the country".

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Woman Fights Abortion Ban

by Rhea Hirshman
Women Vs. Conn

For the past year, the Women vs. Connecticut suit, which is being brought by over 1,500 Connecticut women as a challenge to the state's restrictive abortion laws, has been bogged down in matters of legal and judicial procedure. A State Court of Appeals finally ruled that we could bring the suit before a three-judge Federal panel in our attempt to get the state's laws declared unconstitutional.

With the procedural matters now resolved, the actual legal and social issues being raised by the suit are finally coming under the consideration of a Federal court. However, at the same time that the Court of Appeals granted us the right to have our case heard, it also ruled that we must present a plaintiff who would be pregnant and want an abortion at the time of the filing of the suit in the Federal Court.

It was this requirement that necessitated the first court action before the three-judge Federal panel. A pregnant plaintiff, who is proceeding anonymously as "Peggy Poe," requested through the suit's attorneys that she be granted a temporary restraining order, allowing her to have an abortion in Connecticut without threat of prosecution.

Hearing Held

The hearing on this request was held at the Federal District Court in Bridgeport on February 14. Attorneys Kathryn Emmett and Nancy Stearns, two of the several lawyers for the suit, spoke for the

plaintiff, with men from the State Attorney's and Attorney General's Offices speaking for the state against the request. There was also an attempt by a Waterbury doctor to have himself appointed by the court as guardian of the plaintiff's fetus, so that he might prevent the order being granted; the court denied his request although it allowed briefs to be submitted on his behalf.

The temporary restraining order was denied by the court. The judges stated that since they felt prepared to consider the merits of the entire case within ten days, without further testimony, they did not find it necessary to grant the relief requested, even though the information submitted by the plaintiff's doctor indicated that he found it imperative that she have the abortion by February 15.

Goes State Wide Women's Caucus Grows

The Women's Political Caucus has become a state-wide organization. Its priorities for 1972 are the development of a strong and effective voice in the selection of delegates to state and national nominating conventions and forming a women's lobby in Hartford. They are supporting the women's

Democratic legislators to have representative Agnes Simon appointed as assistant majority leader in the state assembly.

The Women's Political Caucus operates in thirty states, all having similar political guidelines. Their positions in-

The lawyers, led by Katherine Roraback, chief attorney for the suit, and several of the women involved in Women vs. Connecticut, have decided that it was necessary to ask the court for a full-scale hearing so that we could present the testimony and evidence that we have gathered from women all over the state. We feel it is important that the existing laws, which permit abortion only where the "life of the mother or of the unborn child" is at stake, be declared unconstitutional, and we want the opportunity to show the court and the public the full range of problems and issues related to the suit.

The court granted the request for a hearing. The hearings, which are open to the public and which may last two or three weeks, will probably begin in the middle of March.

clude: opposition to the war in Southeast Asia, opposition to racism, and extensive position statements on women's issues. A large portion of their energy will be spent in encouraging legislative action and legislators' accountability for actions on child care, welfare, birth control and equal rights for women.

The temporary chairwoman for New Haven Women's Political Caucus is Lee Novick. Local branches of the caucus are coordinated by a voluntary steering committee of representatives from Westport, Middletown, New London, Fairfield, Greenwich, New Britain, Hartford, Hamden, Stamford, Stratford, Weston, and New Haven.

Women's Weekend

The New Haven Women's Liberation Center is sponsoring a "Women's Weekend" March 3 to March 5. The "Weekend" is in celebration of International Women's Day, March 8, and will feature music and movies by and about women. The public is invited.

There will be a dance Friday, March 3 at 9 p.m. in the Silliman College dining hall at Yale, 505 College St. in New Haven, on the corner of College and Grove Sts. There will be a \$1.50 donation at the door for the dance which features the Chicago Women's Liberation Rock Band and the New Haven Women's Liberation Rock Band. The Chicago group is on the East Coast to make an album with their sister band from New Haven.

Films will be shown all day Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, March 5, at the Enormous Room, 204 York St., New Haven. There will be a \$1 donation for each showing of the films.

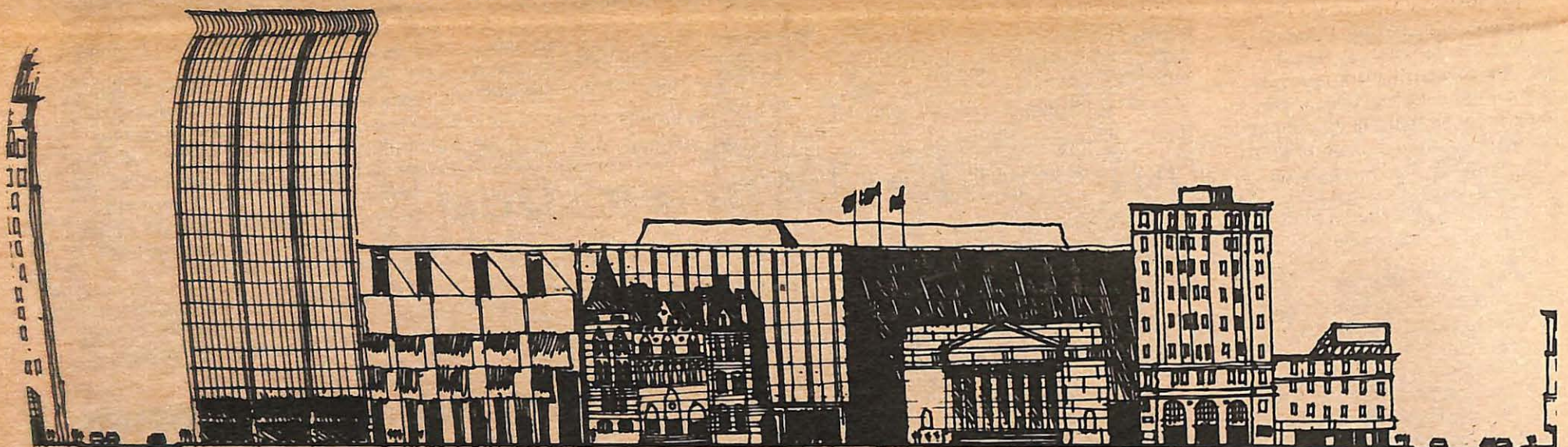
SATURDAY at 2 p.m.: "The Woman's Film" from Newsreel, "79 Springs", "Bessie Smith", and "Do Blondes Have More Fun?"

SATURDAY at 7 p.m.: "Salt of the Earth," "Matchseller," and "Make Out."

SATURDAY at 9:30 p.m.: a repetition of the 2 p.m. showing.

SUNDAY at 2 p.m.: "Adam's Rib" with Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy, "Matchseller," "Make Out," and "Do Blondes Have More Fun?"

SUNDAY at 7 p.m.: "Adam's Rib," "Bessie Smith," "Matchseller," and "Make Out."



by Bill Hersey

Conjectural view of the Government Center elevation on Church Street: big, strong and completely image-less.

This is the third in a series of articles on development in New Haven in the 1970's. The hallmark of growth and development in New Haven in the next decade is the Government Center on the Church Street side of the Green. The amount of money spent on this project, the rate and phasing of construction, the layout of the buildings themselves are all indicative of where the whole city is headed in the 70's.

The scenario goes like this. When the new Superior Court building at Church and Wall Streets is completed, the 6th Circuit Court will move out of City Hall and into the old Superior Court building at the corner of the Green. Then the demolition of the rest of the City Hall block and the removal of Court Street will clear the way for the Government Center. A piece of the facade of the existing City Hall will be kept, as will the Post Office and the Hall of Records. But the Post Office will be renovated into the new Federal Court, and a new Post Office and Federal Office Building will be...

Well, you get the picture, or lack thereof. The succinct facts are that by 1980, about thirty million dollars will have been spent playing musical urban chairs to bring us a new superblock on the Green containing underground garages and service tunnels (see plan), about 600,000 square feet of banking and municipal office space, a landscaped plaza, and so on. The keynotes are consolidation, efficiency, power, and money. Just the things bureaucrats and businessmen love.



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Review

The Last Picture Show

The 50's Revisited

by Harriet Fraad
Modern Times Staff

Written and directed by Peter Bogdanovich
With Timothy Bottoms, Jeff Bridges,
Ellen Burstyn

The Last Picture Show is a truly fine film. On the surface it's about life in the 1950's in a tiny, dying western town. The atmosphere, the clothes, the hit tunes, the expressions are all very 1950's. The town is dying so quickly that it can't sustain its one movie house. In the course of the film we see "the last picture show."

The film is excellent because it's true on so many levels at once. The town is dying. The myth of the glorious West is dying. The people are dying inside from loneliness, and the American Dream is dying also.

The last picture shown in town is a glorious Western. The camera zeros in on the toughest possible man, John Wayne, and then focuses on cowboys whooping wildly with joy. Quite a contrast to the sad weakness and boredom of the real Western town being viewed.

The 1950's in America was the time just before the American Dream began to crumble. Hippies, opposition to the war, the gold crisis, black power, woman power, losing the war, and the devaluation of the American dollar all came in the sixties and seventies. Korea was a war very similar to the war in Vietnam,

but very few people cared.

There were few protest movements to speak of and the civil rights movement was just getting started in 1954. I think that's why Peter Bogdanovich placed the film in the fifties. He was trying to show the loneliness and decay that preceded and anticipated the mass social upheaval we now see. He wanted to show the emptiness of life that led people to demand a new and better America.

Empty Sexuality

There really was nothing to live for in that Western town. Peoples' only distraction was sex. In one scene you see teenage boys who can think of nothing to amuse themselves except to force a retarded boy to try and lay a whore in the backseat of a car. In other scenes you see boys and girls stripping or trying to feel and screw each other. You never see a man and woman talking about ideas or hopes. The women's liberation movement is certainly a predictable reaction to this empty sexuality.

You also see the emptiness of the American Dream. The wife of the one rich man in the film is bored and sad and longs for the one beautiful affair she had with a poor, but tender man who had appreciated her. She says at one point,

"It's sad to think that there was only one man in my life who knew what I was worth."

On another level everyone in the film is like a phoney picture show, showing a bright smile and hiding their despair. A young man gets on the bus in his army uniform. He is going to the army base and then Korea. "See you soon if I don't get killed," he says cheerily. Truck drivers talk casually over the dead body of a boy who they killed with their truck. You wonder what has died inside of them that no one even takes the boy's body from the dusty road.

The Last Picture Show is terribly sad but it ends with hope, just like the fifties which ended with the hope and beginning of a movement to change America. In the last scene, the hero returns to an older, unglamorous woman who has really loved him. She shows her honest anger and hurt. He shows his hurt and need for her. They take each other's hands. The phoney picture show is over.

Books On Job Safety

from United Auto Workers
UAW Washington Report

YOU CAN BE A PARAPROFESSIONAL

HERE'S BASIC LIBRARY
FOR WORKERS WHO WANT
TO CLEAN UP WORKPLACE

The following publications and books are considered a basic list of tools which workers and union leaders ought to have to combat workplace pollution:

1. **Industrial Hazards: A Worker's Guide for Controlling the Work Environment**, Scientists Committee on Occupational Health, available for \$5 through OCAW, 1126 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.
- †. **Public Law 91-596 (Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1970)**, Public Document Room, U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C., available free upon request to your congressman.
3. **Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials**, Irving Sax, Reinhold, 1968 - costs \$35 but worth it if you are going to be serious about this.
4. **Occupational Safety and Health Act: What It Covers, How It Works, How to Use It**, AFL-CIO Standing Committee on Safety and Occupational Health, 815 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. A good basic guide to the law.
5. **Primer of Plant Noise Measurement**, General Radio, West Concord, Massachusetts, free upon request, takes the mystery out of decibels.

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Schedule of Appearances and Topics

Tues. Mar. 14, 8:00 pm "Philosophy and Revolution" Science Center Auditorium, Wesleyan Univ., Middletown, Conn.
Wed. Mar. 15, 8:00 pm "The Movement: Impasse or Leap Forward?" College of Letters Lounge, Wesleyan University, Lawn Ave., Middletown, Conn.

Thur. Mar. 16, 4:00 pm Open Discussion: Perspectives for Revolution in the Advanced Industrial Countries Since the Events of May, 1968. College of Social Studies Lounge, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.
Mon. Mar. 20, 7:00 pm "Womens' Liberation and Marxism" Alumni Lounge, Mather Hall, Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.
Tues. Mar. 21 8:30 pm "From Lenin to Mao: A Revolutionary Marxist Talks About Russia and China" Life Science Audit. Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.
Wed. Mar. 22, 4:30 pm "The Humanism of Marx" Alumni Lounge, Mather Hall, Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.
Wed. Mar. 22, 8:00 pm "The Unity of Theory and Practice: Marxist-Humanism as an Organization. An Introduction of NEWS AND LETTERS Committees."

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Fair Haven: Wil-Mor's, Grand-James; Marie's, Grand-Lloyd; Fair Haven Parents Ministry, Grand-James, Sal's Sandwich Shop, 188 Grand; Lenny's Market, St. Johns-Chestnut; Pequot Drug, Grand-East Pearl.

Downtown: Red's Newstand, Elm-State; News Depot, Orange-George; Band Box, Chapel near College; Whitlock's, Broadway; Angela Davis Bookstore, Broadway.

Hamden: Cherry Hill Pharmacy, 1830 Dixwell; Soybel Pharmacy, Dixwell-Wooding.

West Haven: Silver's, Campbell-Main; Liggett's, Campbell-Center; Rivoli Luncheonette, Campbell-Center.

Newhallville: Davis-Waller, Goodrich-Newhall; Visel's Drugs, Dixwell-Bassett; Bob's Market, Dixwell-Division.

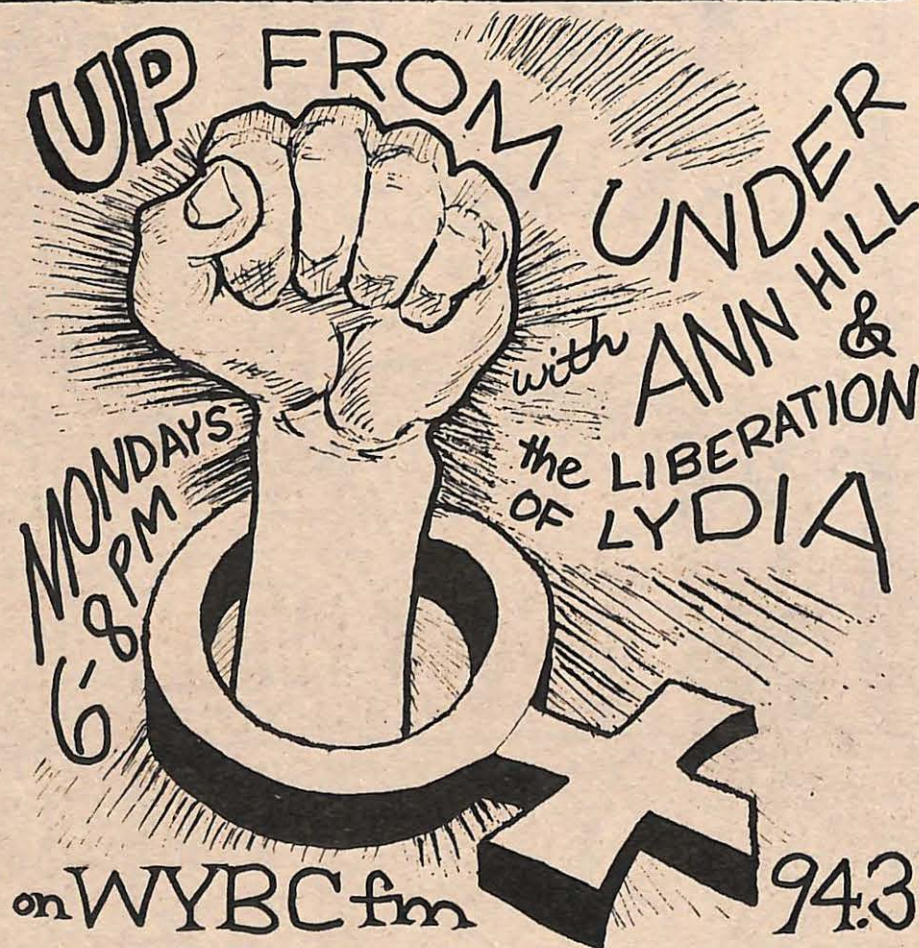
State-Orange: Standard Food Market, 852 State; Orange-Grove Pharmacy; Whitney Pharmacy, near Edwards; Orange Market, 500 Orange.

Dixwell: Davis-Waller, Dixwell Plaza; Lake Variety, Dixwell-Lake Place; Windsor Drugs, Winchester-Webster; FH Discount, 138 Goffe St.

Westville: Beaver Hill Pharmacy, Fitch-Blake; Westville Pharmacy, Fountain-Central; Coyne Stationery, Amity Center; Lurie's Pharmacy, Whalley-Dayton.

Dwight: Nu-Way Market, Howe-Chapel; Volpe's Pharmacy, Chapel-Beers; Group W, Dwight-Edgewood; Esquire Restaurant, Chapel-Orchard.

Mid-town: Book World, Chapel-York; Superbooks, Chapel-York; Downstairs Gallery, York near Chapel; C & I Grocery, Norton-George; Audio Showcase, Whalley-Winthrop; LaBella's Luncheonette, 433 Chapel; Our Food Store, Whalley-Winthrop; Gary's New York Deli, 1207 Chapel; Ray's Coffee Shop, York-Chapel; Omnibus, Park near Crown.



On The Job

Olin Worker Feels Computerized



by A Woodshop Worker at Olin's
(This article is a transcription of a taped interview.)

This feature appears regularly in Modern Times. We ask for articles that talk about the kinds of jobs our readers have and about how workers struggle against profit-minded employers to make their jobs better, more dignified, and more useful for the whole community. We welcome the story you have to tell. Call us or send it in to Modern Times, 441 Chapel St., New Haven, Conn. 06510 (562-2510).

I work in the woodshop at Olin. I've been working there for many years. The woodshop is usually physical work, with little machine work. We make the stocks and the wooden parts of the guns. The machinery is used for the rough cuts, then when it goes to the next stage it's actually handled by hand.

I used to enjoy my job. We worked with our hands, we worked with our minds, we were active in what we were doing on our jobs. Under the old system, once they showed you the job they left you more or less on your own. You had your own ideas and you worked your own way, as long as the quality was acceptable. Now they're breaking up the

(MT photos courtesy of Winchester '71)



original way of doing it. You do a little here, someone else does a little there. The processes are being divided up.

Management is getting back to the old system, before we had the union. If some foreman found out you were good at something, they buried you in that job and you just couldn't get out of it. I'm slotted. I've been at my present job over 20 years. I've got a hole that I fit into and I can't get out of it. And now the age bracket is against me. But since the union has come in, it opened the door for at least some of these people to get out of these jobs.

Today, It's Drudgery

It used to be a pleasure to go into a plant. Take your clothes out, go to the bench, do your work. You knew what you were going to do for the day. Today, it's drudgery. You don't know from one minute to the next what you're doing. You come in in the morning and you start a job and then somebody says don't do this, do that. The computer says we need this for that and that for this. And nobody knows where he's supposed to come in.

There used to be a certain amount of pride in what we were doing. Now we don't have that pride. Let me give you

an example. One day they decide they're going to ship 900 of a certain kind of gun. First thing you know, quality control disappears. Whatever you make, they'll take it. Just push it through. Push. Push. The next day, you think they're going to accept the same quality of work. Quality control comes along and says, "Oh, no, that job is not passable." You get a reject.

In the old days there was something to look forward to. It's the same old story, like saying to somebody else; "If you work hard, sooner or later you're going to become a boss or a straw boss or something." That gave some incentive to work for. Today, we don't have that incentive. In the industry they tell us you've got to have a college degree now to become a foreman. So where does that leave the ordinary worker?

Workers Need Unity

I've been in the union since the beginning. I believe in the union. The principle of union. I believe that working people have to be united 'cause without unity we have nothing. We'd drown in a few minutes and there isn't anything that would save us.

The union at Winchester recently had its 15th anniversary. When it first came in, everything was functioning fine. You wouldn't let management do this, this belongs to the union, that belongs to management. Things were put in their proper place for the first two contracts.

Today the foreman's doing anything he wants and nobody says anything. People are breaking up — they're going back to the old style. The bosses find pets. The pets have a few details that they inform about. They tell these little stories about the people next to them and the foreman sits in his office and writes it all out. And all this is computerized. Modern Times had an article about the problem. How much can a union steward really do in a shop? He compromises on



the grievances.

Before we went on strike three years ago there were close to 2000 people working in the whole Olin plant. These were union members. When the strike ended 500 people who had been working in ammunition lost their jobs. There was no opening for them and they never came back. Now in productive jobs there are roughly 750 - 800 people. But that is gradually diminishing. If you go upstairs now, 90% of the parts are made out of the plant. That's where most of the jobs went.

Generation Gap

The generation gap is coming into the plant — in management. There are very few young workers. 50% or better have been in the plant for 15-25 years. As the



work force is getting smaller, the age group is getting older. The people with seniority stay.

Maybe it's because there are so many college students out of a job, but the management is bringing in school teachers and making foremen out of them. You get a young fellow that's been trained school teaching and he rates you — "A-plus," "Oh, you did good, you get a star for this." A fellow that's 28 comes over to someone who's over 40 and says that he's rating you B-plus — what is this, kindergarten again?

These young foremen have been through one or two years of psychology courses. So they do psychology in reverse: don't laugh at the guy, laugh with him, but let him know he's wrong.

Right now they're colorizing the plant. They're painting it — red, green, blue, violet, any color you want. They're creating the illusion that they'll let you do whatever you want. You paint it yourself. So the worker is happy. He gets a paint brush, draws a sign here, the bench green or the legs yellow. When he's painted his own bench, then they say: "Well, gee, we let you paint your own bench. How come you don't stay there? What are you doing in the toilet?"

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